NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

2016 Entry - Additional Information for the degree of

BSc in Speech and Language Sciences

A Introduction

This document is designed to provide additional information about entrance requirements and admissions in relation to the degree programme or group of programmes listed above. It also provides an explanation of how we handle applications from candidates. It should be read in conjunction with the University's current Undergraduate Admissions Policy which is available on the University’s website at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply/requirements/. We hope that you will find this information helpful when completing your UCAS application. If you have not yet decided which course is the best one for you, detailed information about all our courses is available on our website at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/a-z.

B Application Figures

It is expected that the degree programme listed above will have 30 places available for new United Kingdom and European Union students in the 2016 intake. For 2016 entry we received over 150 applications from UK and EU applicants.

Speech and Language Therapy is a popular subject due to its vocational nature and to the high rate of graduates who find employment as soon as they graduate. Competition for places on the course is therefore strong. Newcastle was the first university in the UK to award a degree in Speech and Language Therapy, in 1959, and continues to be one of the UK’s leading training programmes in the field and a leader in research. The Speech and Language Sciences programme at Newcastle follows a research-led teaching approach and is based in part on a case-based learning approach which is aimed at developing students’ problem-solving skills.

C Selection Process

a) How Does it Happen?

i) General Process

Applications are processed by the central Admissions Office in the first instance, and then sent to the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences for processing by the Admissions Tutor and secretarial staff. Decisions are made between the end of January and April. Promising UK and EU applicants are invited to an interview at Newcastle. This will consist of a series of mini interviews, and a written exercise. The aim of these exercises is to assess personal qualities which are fundamental to becoming a Speech and Language Therapist. Those candidates who do well at the interview will be made an offer. We interview over 100 applicants and offers are made to about 80% of those applicants we interview.
ii) **Variations from the Normal Process**

International applicants are not invited to interview, and offers are made solely on the basis of the written application. International applications may be accepted until the end of June.

iii) **Applications for Deferred entry**

We are not normally able to consider applicants for deferred entry. Any applicant who wishes to apply for deferred entry should indicate this on their UCAS application, and put forward a strong case for doing so.

iv) **Direct Entry to Stage 2**

We very rarely accept Direct Entry to Stage 2, mainly because our students start relevant clinical experience in Stage 1. This makes it almost impossible to accept transfers from other courses, and even if the student is trying to transfer from another Speech and Language Therapy course, differences between content and entry requirements for Speech and Language Therapy programmes across institutions often make it difficult to determine whether all the requirements for Stage 1 have been met before transition to Stage 2.

v) **‘Late’ Applications**

The deadline for applications to reach UCAS is 15 January 2016. Applications received after this date (‘late’ applications) will not be considered if we have filled our interview quotas.

vi) **Confirmation**

Applicants who receive conditional offers will automatically have their offer of a place ‘confirmed’ if they meet the conditions of their offer, for example through achieving required grades in examinations. The applications of those who narrowly miss achieving the required grades will normally be reconsidered if there are places still available on the degree programme in question, and it may sometimes be the case that they are accepted onto the programme.

**b) What Are Selectors Looking For?**

i) **Academic Criteria**

Typical entrance requirements for our undergraduate degree programmes, for a range of the qualifications most commonly offered by our applicants, are set out in the Undergraduate Prospectus 2016 Entry and on our website. The typical requirements for this programme can be found at [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/b620/entryrequirements/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/b620/entryrequirements/).

Applications from candidates whose qualifications are not listed are considered on an individual basis.

For the BSc (Hons) in Speech and Language Sciences, AAB at A level or equivalent is required, normally including Biology. Biology is required at Grade B at AS level if it is not offered at A level. Biology is required because students would find the compulsory Anatomy, Physiology and Neurology modules extremely difficult without it. GCSE Mathematics is required at grade B or
above (or equivalent). The programme includes three years of research methods and a
dissertation, so statistics cannot be avoided!

ii) Additional Criteria

The examination grades that applicants have achieved and are expected to achieve at school or
college are not the only indicators that selectors use to judge whether individuals are likely to
succeed on a particular degree programme. Other criteria that might be used by selectors include
personal qualities, attributes, skills and interest in a subject. They will look for evidence of these in
the applicant’s personal statement and reference in a UCAS application, and in some cases
through interviews or other means of assessment.

We are seeking candidates who are personally attuned to NHS values as stated in the NHS
constitution which can be found at http://tinyurl.com/c9qmsac. We will look for evidence of this in the
personal statement and at interview.

For this course, in addition to the academic criteria mentioned, selectors will be looking for a good
level of scientific ability, excellent oral and written communication skills, flexibility, creativity,
analytical ability and good social skills. Selectors will also look for evidence that the applicant has
carefully researched a career in Speech and Language Therapy. This should be reflected in the
‘personal statement’ section of the UCAS form, where we would also expect applicants to discuss
their motivation for applying to this course and any relevant knowledge and experience they may
have. This may include shadowing/observation of clinicians at work, consultation of relevant
websites and/or references on Speech and Language Therapy, and awareness of relevant
professional organisations that could serve as a source of information on the field of Speech and
Language Therapy. Information about the Health and Care Professions Council, which has
statutory authority to register Speech Language Therapists, is available at www.hcpc-uk.org.

At the interview we will be assessing how well students work in groups, whether they are strongly
motivated, and have a caring and compassionate attitude.

c) Feedback

The University does not provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants automatically, but will provide
feedback to unsuccessful applicants who submit a written request. Requests for feedback should
be addressed to: Undergraduate Admissions, (Ug-admissions@ncl.ac.uk) Newcastle University,
King’s Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU. Feedback will be given only to applicants, and not
to third parties such as schools or parents.

D Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Students undertaking the Speech and Language Sciences degree have unsupervised contact with
children or vulnerable adults, and the School of Education, Communication and Language
Sciences must therefore ensure that students undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
enhanced disclosure check to ensure students are ‘fit to practise’. The School of Education,
Communication and Language Sciences reserves the right to discontinue the studies of any
student for whom an unsatisfactory DBS disclosure is received.
For International Students, a police check is required from their Home country. A DBS check will be processed when they are settled in the UK.

**E. Occupational Health**

As part of preparation for coming to study the course, we wish to know about any impairments or health conditions which could affect students in training so that, where appropriate, Occupational Health can advise the University of any requirements students may have and discuss what adjustments can be provided to meet their needs.

Most health conditions and impairments, even if substantial, should not impede students from being accepted on the course but the University has to ensure that you are capable, with support if needed, of acquiring the core clinical skills and competences to qualify and that you are able to work safely with patients.

All medical and sensitive personal information provided by students will be held in confidence by the Occupational Health Service and their records are held separate from any University records. The University will only be informed of the students’ fitness to undertake this professional training or the need to make adjustments if it is relevant to the students’ educational needs or patient safety and with your full involvement.